(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the details of selected districts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" has been contemplated to enhance the production of wheat, rice and pulses during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The National Food Security Mission will have three components *viz.*, National Food Security Mission-Rice (NFSM-Rice), National Food Security Mission-Wheat (NFSM-Wheat) and National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses).

The NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat and NFSM-Pulses will be implemented in 133, 138 and 168 identified districts respectively of various States in the country.

Assessing implementation of package for suicide victims

†2003. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted a Task Force under the chairmanship of Shri R. Radhakrishnan to assess the implementation of a scheme formulated for providing economic package of Rs.17,000 crores to farmers declared by the Prime Minister as a result of suicide by the farmers;

(b) if so, when this Task Force was constituted;

(c) whether this Task Force has submitted its report to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Government *vide* Order dated 10th August, 2006 constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) to look into the problems of agricultural indebtedness in totality and suggest measures to provide relief to farmers across the country. The Expert Group has submitted its report. The report focuses on institutions and instruments that would strengthen the credit delivery mechanism for the farm community in particular and for rural India in general. Policy interventions and institutional reforms essential for resolving the farm crisis, which go beyond the credit delivery system, also form part of this Report.

The Report recommends as under:–

1. Immediate Credit Measures include:

Implementation of the Prime Minister's Relief Package: The needs of individual households should be taken into account with necessary flexibility. Rescheduling of loan of farmers affected by natural calamities. Credit for Rainfed Areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Formalisation of informal credit; Inclusion of financially excluded; Project-Based Lending;

2. Financial Architecture include:

Agency and Mobile Banking; System of Bharat Kisan Credit Card; Reforming Lead Bank Scheme; Credit Counseling for Farmers; Simplifying the Procedure for Mortgages; Simplifying Procedure to Reduce Transaction Costs; Computerization of Records; Integration of Micro Finance Institutions with the Mainstream banking; Improved Deployment of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

3. Institutional Architecture include:

Federation of Farmers – Self Help Groups (SHGs).

4. Risk Mitigation Measures include:

Crop Insurance, Weather Insurance, Price Risk Mitigation; Variable Tariff; Crop Surveillance; Mitigating Risks from Spurious Inputs; Strengthening of Research and Extension Services.

5. Other Measures include:

Expanding.Livelihood Base and Rural Health Facilities.

Farming in plains and hilly areas

†2004. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance to be given for per acre farming in plains by Central and State Governments and the amount required for farming in hilly areas as compared to the above;

(b) whether his Ministry has prepared any action plan for making farming in hilly areas useful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has been implementing plans and programmes for development of agriculture both in plain and hilly areas of the country. The major schemes are (i) Macro-management of agriculture, (ii) Integrated scheme of oilseeds, pulses, oil, palm and maize (ISOPOM), (iii) National Horticulture Mission and (iv) Technology Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern Region including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The details of funds released by the Central Government under the above schemes during the last 3 years, State-wise, are given in the attached Statements I - IV (*See* below). The details of assistance given by the State Governments are maintained by the respective State Governments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.